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TO : Messrs. [REDACTED] and
any other interested party

FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

DATE: 21 June 1951

SUBJECT: Possibility of a Negotiated Settlement in the Korean War

1. According to my understanding, the problem presented to me was to determine the feasibility of answering the general question: "In what circumstances or on what terms would the Chinese Communist regime effect a cessation of organized hostilities in Korea?" After such investigation of the problem as I was able to make in the time allowed, I am of the opinion that a fairly satisfactory answer could be furnished in the form of a staff memorandum to the Board or an estimate backed by Agency contributions.

2. It seems to me that the broad questions underlying the problem--- why the Chinese intervened in the Korean war, and why they refuse to make any settlement despite heavy casualties---can be answered only on the basis of inference and the best available opinion. The more specific questions--- extent of Chinese capabilities for prolonging the war and whether they may or may not be preparing for a settlement that the UN could consider--- could probably be answered, to some extent, on the basis of evidence. It might be advisable to request agency research at least into the latter questions unless it is considered that the agencies have already done as much as can be done in connection with NIE-32. I am enclosing an informal questionnaire which might serve as the basis for Terms of Reference if an NIE were decided on.

3. I am also enclosing a summary of arguments relating to the problem as I have gathered them from conversation and reading. These arguments are intended only to be suggestive and for the comment of anyone wishing to consider them. If it were agreed after revision that they were generally valid, they might serve as the basis for a memorandum or estimate.

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